



**For Immediate Release  
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**STATE TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING ON RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
FOR EXPANDED BEAVER BROOK RESERVATION IN BELMONT**

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has released its Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Expanded Beaver Brook Reservation for public review and comment. DCR will present an overview of the draft RMP and invite public comment at a public meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 23, 2006 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the Massachusetts Audubon Society Habitat Education Center, 10 Juniper Road, in Belmont. A copy of the draft RMP and instruction for submitting written comments are available on the DCR's Resource Management Plan Program website at <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/rmp/rmp-beaverBrk.htm>. Written comments will be accepted through June 9, 2006.

“We look forward to public comment on this draft plan, as well as the opportunity for continued collaboration and partnership with the communities and environmental groups who strongly and effectively advocated for the protection of the Metropolitan State Hospital land,” said DCR Commissioner Stephen H. Burrington.

The RMP is the result of research and fieldwork by DCR's consultant team, with input from DCR staff as well as public participation. It provides documentation and assessment of current site conditions, and identifies a framework for future management and capital improvement decisions with recommendations for natural and cultural resource stewardship. It also sets guidelines for maintenance, operations, and public use.

Beaver Brook Reservation was expanded in 2002, when 254 acres of former Metropolitan State Hospital (MSH) property, declared surplus in 1992, were transferred from the Department of Capital Asset Management (DCAM) to DCR to preserve the natural resource values of the land. The original 59-acre Reservation and the 254-acre MSH property are not contiguous parcels, but are linked ecologically by the Beaver Brook watercourse. The acquisition of the MSH land and the historic importance of the original Beaver Brook Reservation made this combined park an appropriate candidate for a new RMP. The entire expanded reservation is also part of an important regional open space system, called the Western Greenway, which presents opportunities for continued habitat and trail connectivity with adjacent open spaces managed by the Commonwealth, municipalities, and private conservation organizations.

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